

Notice of Proposal: A4135 Whiteway Hill

7th May 2025 – 30th May 2025

Comments

Hello.

I fear that I must object to the proposal to introduce a 50mph speed limit on the A4135 between Dursley and Kingscote.

As a resident of XXXX, indeed I live on the A4135 in XXXXX, I have been a daily user of this stretch of road for over XXX years, as a motorist, a motorcyclist, a cyclist and as a pedestrian. I am also very aware of the dreadful statistics concerning the frequency of accidents on this stretch of road, and fully agree that there is a need to improve road safety. I disagree with this proposal for the following reasons.

In your statement of reasons, apart from saying that there have been a lot of accidents, the only argument for this proposal is that "Vehicle speed data gathered during the assessment was within the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guideline intervention level for a 50mph speed limit of 57mph". It is not clear where this data as gathered, over what period it was gathered or indeed how it was analysed, all factors that could significantly affect the interpretation of such data. That said, your own speed data shows that motorists are already driving within the guidance speeds for a 50mph speed limit and yet we still have this terrible rate of accidents. Clearly, changing the speed limit signs is not the answer.

Further to this point, the A4135 is used by a wide variety of vehicles, including slow moving commercial vehicles, agricultural vehicles and cyclists. While much of this stretch of road it utterly unsuitable for overtaking, some sections are conducive to safe overtaking. Reducing the maximum speed by 10mph would increase the risk of such maneuvers. To put this into numbers, overtaking a cyclist travelling at 25mph would take 40% longer, overtaking a tractor travelling at 40mph would double the exposure time.

As mentioned earlier, I fully agree that something has to be done and would be very happy to work with you to drive meaningful improvements.

Are there any geographical clusters of accidents? For example, if heading towards Kingscote, the right hand turn at Bowcote farm seems to attract more than it's fair share of debris. Also, for someone who is not familiar with the road, the chevron warning sign here only enters the eyeline after one has committed to the corner. Could this be improved?

Are there any temporal clusters? For example, low sun or darkness? Are the road studs in good order?

Although budget is always a challenge, I must point out that the road surface between Dursley and the Wotton under edge is worse than I have seen it at any point in the last 25 years. I frequently see vehicles swerving erratically to avoid large potholes, which can't improve road safety. I've

destroyed 2 car tyres over the last couple of years and I shudder to think what would happen to a cyclist who hits one. Perhaps there is a point where to comply with section 122 of the RTRA, improvements to the road surface need to be made?

kind regards

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